

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates.

I believe in particular that what is presented on television news programs is often less diverse than it should be already. This as can be seen by the lengthy coverage by most twenty-four hour news networks of a single story that is sensationalistic and has little or no importance in the lives of the general public. Alternatively, the television news media often fails to report on stories that are of great importance to the public but which may not reflect the interests of the owners of the stations. The very subject about which I am writing has reportedly only been covered on a major TV station by an ABC news report broadcast when the vast majority of it's viewers were asleep. By allowing media companies to consolidate even more, the FCC will risk allowing the television media to become dominated by companies which have little or no interest in providing coverage of stories that will inform the public about important issues such as foreign policy or economics, and a great ! deal of interest in providing coverage of stories which provide entertainment and high ratings. In addition, by allowing the continued consolidation of media companies, the FCC could create an environment in which the companies will be able to promote an ideological agenda through their programming, without offering the public an alternative viewpoint.

Considering that the majority of Americans receive their news from television news programs, I believe that it does a disservice to the American public to allow further consolidation of broadcast media. Other branches of the media would be effected in similar ways.

I strongly believe that the media needs more regulation, not less. Thank-you for your time.